(b) how far it has proved its effectiveness in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) As per information available with the Ministry, the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education, popularly called Mid-day Meal Scheme, is being implemented in all the 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh. Under the programme, foodgrains is distributed to the children of primary classes (I—V) in Government, local bodies and Government aided schools.

(b) State Government has informed that the programme has been successful in reducing the drop-out rates during the last five years.

Corruption in Schools and Education Department

†4729. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact at there is rampant corruption in schools and Education Departments, of the country;

(b) if so, whether huge amount of money has been spent in the name of reforming schools in Delhi and other States;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no work has been done in the schools in the name of school reforms;

(d) if so, whether Government would get investigated; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMeNT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA, VERMA]: (a) to (e) 'Education' is in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and school education is primarily the concern of State Union Territory Governments. As and when complaints in regard to schools and education departments are received, they are referred to the concerned States an authorities for appropriate action.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that they have taken up some of the major reforms like constitution of a Committee to suggest improvement in quality of education in government schools, constitution of Students Welfare Committees for every school under *Bhagidari* scheme and decentralization of powers. As reported, these reforms do not entail any extra expenditure.

Distance Education Courses for B.Ed

4730. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have banned Distance Education courses for B.Ed Degree, conducted by Kurukshetra and Annamalai Universities, pursued by non-working Graduates and if so, the reasons and the justification thereof; and

(b) whether Government are aware that some unrecognised institutions in a number of States are offering B.Ed courses privately and if so, the details thereof and what action is proposed to stop these illegal and unauthorised courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The Annamalai University and Kurukshetra University have discontinued the B.Ed through distance mode from 1996-97 and 1997—99 respectively. These universities have not sought recognition from NCTE for B.Ed through distance mode.

(b) As per the NCTE Act, the qualification in teacher education obtained pursuant to a course or training in teacher education not recognised by NCTE shall not be treated as a valid qualification for purposes of employment under the Central Government, any State Government or University or in any School or College or Educational body aided by the Central Government or any State Government. NCTE issues public notices in newspapers from time to time advising the students desirous of joining a teacher education course to seek admission only to teacher education institutions recognised by NCTE.